

Remarks

Claims 1-15 have been amended. Claims 16-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are now in the case.

I. Drawings

Fig. 5B has been amended to change "426" to "410". A corrected formal drawing sheet is submitted with this response. A drawing sheet marked up in red is also submitted.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Original claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. The applicant has amended claims 1-15 and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are submitted to be obviated.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Original claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Cianciotto. Claims 1-15 have been amended and these rejections are submitted to be obviated.

Claim 1 as amended, now specifies:

1. An apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprising a collar comprised of:
 - a left top side fixed to a right top side;
 - a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;
 - a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;
 - wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;
 - wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and
and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion.

The present invention, in one or more embodiments, provides an apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprised of a collar, such as collar 16 in Fig. 1A. (Present application, Fig. 1A) The collar 16 has a left top side fixed to a right top side. (Id.) The collar 16 has a left side at the bottom of indentation or anchor 20 fixed to the left top side through a protrusion 18 and a right side at the bottom of indentation or anchor 26 fixed to the right top side through a protrusion 24. (Id.) The left side (the bottom of indentation 20) is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the left top side. (Id.) The right side 26 (the bottom of indentation 26) is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side. (Id.)

The left side lies between protrusions 18 and 22, so that the left side in combination with the protrusions 18 and 22 forms a left indentation 20. The right side lies between protrusions 24 and 28, so that the right side 26 in combination with the protrusions 24 and 28 forms a right indentation 26. The left side is fixed to the top left side through protrusion 18 and the right side is fixed to the top right side through protrusion 24.

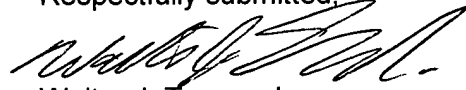
The prior art cited does not provide at least the combination of limitations of amended claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Claims 2-9, and 19 are dependent on claim 1 and are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 2-9, and 19 also provide further limitations distinguishing from the prior art cited.

Claim 10 has been amended and is a method claim including at least some limitations somewhat similar to claim 1. The combination of limitations of claim 10 is not shown by the prior art cited. Claim 10 is submitted to be allowable. Claims 11-18 and 20 are dependent on claim 10 and are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 11-18, and 20 also provide further limitations distinguishing from the prior art cited.

IV. Conclusion

Claims 1-20 are respectfully submitted to be in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Masked Up Drawing Showing Correction

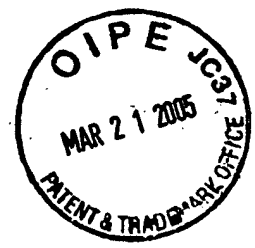


Fig. 5A

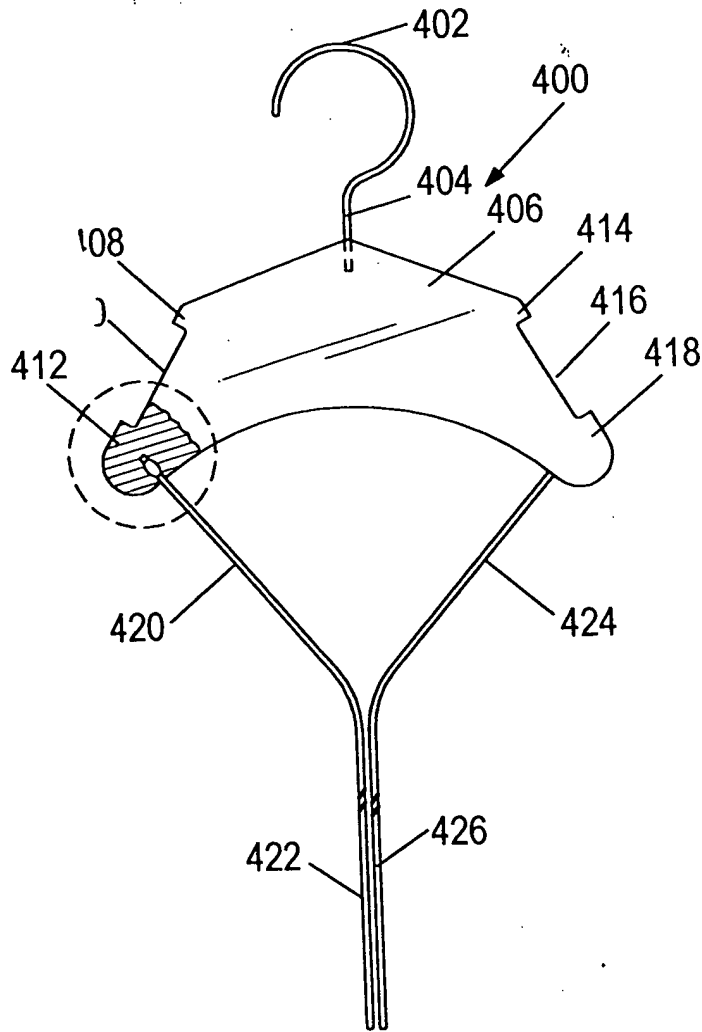


Fig. 5B

